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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANAMA 001766

SIPDIS

STATE FOR D, NEA/ARPI  
SECNAV FOR SECRETARY ENGLAND  
NSC FOR T POUNDS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [BA](#) [IZ](#)  
SUBJECT: SECRETARY OF THE NAVY ENGLAND'S MEETINGS WITH KING  
HAMAD AND CROWN PRINCE SALMAN

REF: MANAMA 1762

Classified by Ambassador William T. Monroe for reasons 1.4  
(b) and (d).

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Summary  
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11. (C) Secretary of the Navy Gordon England met with King Hamad and Crown Prince Salman November 23 and discussed the King's November 29 visit to Washington, Bahrain's counter-terrorism efforts, Iraq, and Iran. The King expressed his appreciation for the invitation to meet with the President and other senior officials and looked forward to reinforcing that Bahrain is on the side of the United States. Honorable people could not forget all the United States has done for the region. The King said that Bahrain was going through a period of reform and the government was learning how to deal with civil laws and freedoms. On Iraq, the King stated that there needed to be more troops on the ground to control Iranian and Syrian interference. The Crown Prince asserted that Bahrain is rising to the challenge of combating terrorism. The Secretary offered to assist in developing the capabilities of the Bahraini Coast Guard. The CP advocated for continued DOD support for the Bahrain School. He recommended that the United States contain the Iranian threat rather than attacking it directly.

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King: Bahrain on Side of U.S.  
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12. (C) King Hamad told Secretary England that he was very appreciative of the invitation to visit Washington November 29. He said that he wanted to personally congratulate the President on his reelection and to reinforce that Bahrain is on the side of the United States. He stated that honorable people cannot forget what the United States has done for Kuwait and all the region, and everyone should know this. The Secretary noted that this would be a welcome message in Washington.

13. (C) The King recognized that Bahrain is going through a period of reform. In the past, the government could rely upon the state security law. The King got rid of that law, and now the government must learn how to deal with civil laws and freedoms. This is a new way. In Bahrain, people can march in the thousands and not create any problems. The government permits them to do this, but will intervene if they start attacking or burning.

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More Troops on Ground in Iraq  
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14. (C) Turning to Iraq, the King expressed his belief that there needs to be more troops on the ground. He worried that neighboring countries, in particular Iran and Syria, were trying to influence the status quo and the outcome of the elections. He suggested further tightening of controls on access to/from these countries. The King said that we should not "get stuck" in Iraq.

15. (C) The King warned that Iran would play games with the international community in pursuing its nuclear program. Iran would stop work when inspectors were in the country, then move forward after they departed, like India and North Korea had done. He urged the United States to continue to warn Iran about the dangers of pursuing a nuclear program.

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CP: Committed To Fighting Terror  
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16. (C) Crown Prince Salman opened his meeting with the Secretary by stating that Bahrain wants to strengthen the

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bilateral relationship with the United States. He said he is aware DOD is conducting a global defense posture review and

emphasized that Bahrain is ready to assist the United States into the future and seeks to ensure that the Fifth Fleet is well served in the Kingdom. The Secretary replied that security is always important, and the issue of the six terrorism suspects is prominent in Washington. It would be raised during King Hamad's meetings November 29 in Washington. His visit represents an opportunity to reassure senior U.S. officials that the GOB is totally committed to fighting terrorism and ensuring the security situation on the ground.

17. (C) The Crown Prince replied that Bahrain is completely committed to fighting terrorism. Bahrain is a small place and Bahrainis and Americans live, work, and shop together. He asserted that terrorism is alien to Bahrain, and if there were an attack, it would harm Bahrainis, Americans, and other residents. He said, "We're rising to the challenge" of combating terrorism." The Secretary offered to help in any way, including working with Bahrain's Coast Guard. The CP said that the island was easily defensible with the right strategy, technology, and training.

18. (C) The Crown Prince stated that the (DOD) Bahrain School was an excellent ambassador for the United States in Bahrain and urged the Secretary to find a way to maintain the DOD link. The Secretary said it is a "magnificent place" and pledged to keep it open. The CP said he was prepared to do whatever it takes to keep the school going. The Secretary recognized the mutual benefits and mutual friendships that developed as a result of the school.

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"Win War, Not Just Battles" In Iraq  
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19. (C) With regard to Iraq, the Crown Prince said that security inside the country is getting better, but the United States must "win the war, not just the battles." He said that the U.S. has to overcome the ideas of the extremists, including Al Qaeda. He asserted that "we should set the agenda, not the terrorists." He stated his belief that more troops - American, Iraqi, or international - were necessary to control security in the country, particularly in the run up to elections.

110. (C) The Crown Prince warned that Iran is trying to develop WMD and needed to be watched and contained. A direct attack on Iran, he believes, would harm U.S. and Bahraini interests, possibly leading to instability in Bahrain, the eastern province of Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. Containment was the appropriate way to deal with the threat.

11. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.  
MONROE